

Forty-fourth
Annual Report



★ Mechanics' Institute ★

SAN FRANCISCO

† 1899 †



Mechanics' Institute

LIBRARY AND READING ROOM

31 POST STREET, SAN FRANCISCO

78,000 VOLUMES.

From three hundred to six hundred volumes added monthly.

Daily list of additions is posted in the circulation department.

New Books of general interest or special merit are added as soon as published, and duplicated in accordance with the demand.

Members' requests for books not already in the Library receive careful consideration.

The Reference Department is especially strong in mechanical and engineering works, including complete sets of the principal American and Foreign scientific periodicals. It contains, also, the United States and the English Patent Office Reports, complete.

The Reading Room list of periodicals embraces the title of 400 newspapers, magazines, reviews and journals.

Classes in Mechanical and Free-hand Drawing, each two evenings a week.

The Mechanics' Institute Bulletin, containing lists of new books received, book reviews, etc., published every month.

A Music Department has recently been added to the Library, consisting of a collection of vocal and instrumental sheet music, scores of standard operas, etc., which are circulated as books.

HOURS OF THE LIBRARY.

Library	9 a. m. to 10 p. m.
" (Sundays)	10 a. m. to 5 p. m.
Reading and Chess Rooms	8 a. m. to 10 p. m.
" " " " (Sundays)	9 a. m. to 10 p. m.

TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP.

Entrance Fee	\$ 1 00
Quarterly Dues	1 50
Life Membership	50 00

Rooms Open for Inspection Day and Evening.

FORTY-FOURTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

★ MECHANICS' INSTITUTE ★

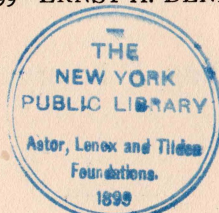
FOR THE

Year Ending February 28, 1899

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.
1899

*PRESIDENTS OF THE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE
FROM ITS ORGANIZATION.*

1855 —BENJAMIN HEYWOOD.	1865 —CHARLES M. PLUM.
1855 —JOHN SIME.	1866 —H. J. BOOTH.
1856 —R. MATHESON.	1867 —GEORGE K. GLUYAS.
1857-58—JOHN SIME.	1868-77—A. S. HALLIDIE.
1859 —GEORGE COFRAN.	1878-79—IRVING M. SCOTT.
1860 —THOMAS TENNENT	1880-88—P. B. CORNWALL.
1861 —JOHN P. BUCKLEY.	1889-91—DAVID KERR.
1862 —B. H. FREEMAN.	1892 —IRWIN C STUMP.
1863-64—JOSEPH BRITTON.	1893-95—A. S. HALLIDIE.
1896-99—ERNST A. DENICKE.	



26689

OFFICERS.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES—1898-99.

ERNST A. DENICKE	President
RODNEY KENDRICK	Vice-President
E. P. HEALD	Recording Secretary
H. L. TICKNER	Corresponding Secretary
J. H. CULVER,	FERDINAND FORMHALS,
J. P. FRASER,	P. J. HEALY,
JOHN McLAREN,	ROBERT W. NEAL,
CHAS. M. PLUM,	GEO. R. PRESSON,
GEO. H. WALLIS,	HORACE WILSON.
FIRST NATIONAL BANK	Treasurer
JOSEPH M. CUMMING, Secretary.	

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Finance	PRESSON, HEALD, CULVER.
Library, Rooms and Buildings	McLAREN, PLUM, FRASER.
Books and Donations	HEALY, KENDRICK, CULVER.
Lectures and Classes	CULVER, HEALD, TICKNER.
Printing and Advertising	NEAL, WILSON, FORMHALS.
Pavilion	PLUM, KENDRICK, WALLIS.
Employees	TICKNER, KENDRICK, PRESSON.
Machinery	WALLIS, McLAREN, FRASER.
Art	HEALD, PRESSON, WALLIS.
Exhibits	FORMHALS, PLUM, NEAL.
Tickets and Admissions	PLUM, PRESSON, FORMHALS.
Music and Decorations	KENDRICK, TICKNER, HEALY.
Management	FRASER, McLAREN, HEALY.

THE PRESIDENT is ex-officio a member of all Committees.

LIBRARY.
31 POST STREET.

FREDERICK J. TEGGART Librarian.
F. B. GRAVES Assistant Librarian.

ASSISTANTS

J. H. WOOD. R. D. COLQUHOUN.
W. R. WILLIAMS. MRS. M. E. SOUTHWORTH.
W. H. WOOLCOCK. GEORGE F. KEIL.

JANITORS.

F. E. HARRIS. A. CITRON.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

SAN FRANCISCO, March 11, 1899.

To the Members of the Mechanics' Institute.

In presenting to you my report for the year ending this month—March, 1899, I have to ask your indulgence because of its length, but as the necessities of the Institute are so urgent, and as its affairs have in some respects been brought to a crucial point, I feel sure that our members will not only excuse me for going somewhat fully into detail, but will endorse my action in so doing.

Under these circumstances I shall take this opportunity of placing matters fully and unreservedly before you, according to my views of them, and give vent to the somewhat radical opinion I have formed in regard to the future interests of our Society. I call particular attention to the reports of the Secretary and Librarian, and I desire that they be taken into consideration together with mine, because the figures therein given have much to do with the formation of my opinion.

While it is true that our Institute educates by its Library, its lectures, its classes and its Industrial Fairs, it is the Library which is the most beloved offspring of the founders of the Institute, and which is by far the most important factor in its educational functions, and therefore the Library will occupy the chief place in this report.

Perhaps one of the most wonderful characteristics of the 19th century, now so near its close, has been the growth of the demand for reading matter. The age of steam and electricity will also be known as the reading age. With the spread of education came the demand for books, and it is indeed a poor city that cannot boast today of a free library. Look at the scientifically arranged and artistically magnificent library buildings springing up all over the world, at the millions of dollars annually expended not only in the collection of books, but in prop-

erly housing them, making the beauty of building, as it were, correspond with the value of the enclosed literary treasures. Thus is it that the united wisdom of ages finds its way into the hands of the general public, and the action of the civilized peoples of the earth is ample proof of the importance of this branch of public education. The Mechanics' Institute with its brilliant and successful past, should not be found lagging in this universal march of progress, but should be as it has hitherto been, an apostle, and point out the road to wisdom.

Possibly the most magnificent library building in the world is that at the National Capital. There is also a marvelously grand building at Boston, and, if possible, a still grander and more beautiful edifice is now being erected in New York City. It should not be long before a fit home for the Free Public Library is erected in this City, and the Mercantile Library had a correct conception of its mission when it constructed its commodious new quarters. Does it not then behoove us, as custodians of the second largest literary treasury on this Coast, to do justice to the subject in general, and to the wants of our members in particular—in short, what I mean is, is it not our imperative duty to provide a building for the Mechanics' Institute worthy of its purpose and its name?

If this question is answered in the affirmative, and I think it will be, the next question to consider is that of ways and means. In this connection I call attention to my report of two years ago:

"In spite of all that has been done in this and previous years, the fact remains that the Library Building on Post street is fast becoming too limited in area for the various purposes for which it is used. The rapidly-growing Library, as well as the general increase of membership, requires more extensive quarters. The shelves are overcrowded, and frequently seats in the Library room are at a premium. The present arrangement of the Library occupying four rooms is inconvenient and expensive. While the location of our present Library Building is admirable in every respect, the building itself is antiquated and inconvenient. Of course, a modern building would be an easy solution

of the problem, as the Library could be moved into temporary quarters during its erection."

Remember that was two years ago. If it was true then, how much more is it so today? I alluded to the location of our Post street property as "admirable;" it is so for many reasons. I doubt if a better could be found, search the city through. It is the antithesis of the position of the Mercantile Library on the corner of Van Ness and Golden Gate Avenues. Our Library is handy for ladies coming down town shopping, and for business men desiring to take books home; it is adjacent to every car system, and can be reached for one fare from every part of the city. With our friends on the Avenue it is just the reverse, and while I sympathize with them, and sincerely hope that they are in a fair way to get out of their financial troubles, their misfortune impresses upon me more than ever the splendid location of our Post-street property for the purpose of a public Library. The lot has a 75-foot front by an average depth of about 95 feet, the space covered thereby is ample for the erection of a suitable six-story modern building capable of containing our Library, and accommodating our members for the next quarter of a century at least. *Such a Library, in my opinion, should be built, and built at once.*

In calling attention to the possibility of thus affording our Library a proper and convenient home, and in making the recommendation which will follow, I am perfectly well aware of what I said on the subject of disposing of the Larkin-street property in my first annual report two years ago when I referred to a report of the then Finance Committee recommending its sale for \$500,000.00.

In explanation and extenuation I will quote the old adage. "Circumstances alter cases," and say that the necessities of the Library at the time were not equal to those of the present moment, and further, that while I now agree with the Committee's recommendation to sell, it is to sell at not less than \$600,000.00, a difference of at least \$100,000.00 in favor of the Institute. This may be a full valuation at the present time of depression in real estate values, but I think it can be obtained.

If you should think that my change of view needs any further explanation, I am frank to admit that it is better to learn late than not at all, and that when it comes to a question as to holding to once-expressed opinion and the good of the Institute, your President has no right to waver one moment.

The absolute need of a new Library Building I endeavored to show in my reports of the last two years, as before stated. You can, therefore, in that respect at least give me the credit of consistency. What we need is a building which will not only accommodate a Library of 250,000 volumes, but will also afford such conveniences as members of modern Institutes of this sort have a right to demand. Among these are light, warmth, ventilation, comfort and the possibility of uninterrupted study.

How can we achieve this? The means I think are at hand. The admirable location of the lot I have before alluded to—it is quite ample in my estimation for our purposes when it is occupied by a modern six-story building. In using figures to strengthen my argument, I will use only the financial figures of last year, which are by no means as favorable as those which could be compiled by taking into consideration the last five years. For instance, the gain from the Hayes and Larkin streets property has been larger for the last year than for the previous four years, and the loss on the Folsom-street property has been less than any time since we have been its owners.

Here are the figures to which I call your attention: They have been compiled from the Secretary's report, and the apparent discrepancy between his figures and mine are accounted for by the fact that I charged the salaries of Secretary and Typewriter to the Post-street account, whereas the Secretary, for certain reasons, charges those two items to the Pavilion account: Estimate made on proposed sale of

Larkin-street property for	:	:	:	\$600,000.00
Liquidation of present mortgage				\$100,000.00
New Library Building	:			200,000.00
				<u>300,000.00</u>
Would leave on hand	:	:	:	\$300,000.00

The annual income of the Institute might be then computed as follows:

5 per cent. on \$300,000.00	:	\$15,000.00	
Present income from members	:	23,000.00	
Probable increase from membership			
arising from much-enlarged library			
and increased accommodation, say			
25%, or in minimum round figures		5,000.00	
Rent of ground floor for stores		6,500.00	
		<u> </u>	\$49,500.00

PER CONTRA

Present running expenses increased			
10% on account of larger building,			
say	:	:	25,500.00
Books and Periodicals (which last			
year was but \$6,353.22)	:	20,000.00	45,500.00
		<u> </u>	
Would leave a reserve fund of	:	:	\$ 4,000.00
annually.			

I have in my mind the best of modern buildings for the purpose desired in every respect, of which the ground floor should (for the present at least) be let as stores, the next four stories would be devoted to the Library, necessary offices, etc., and the upper and sixth floor be arranged as an Assembly or Lecture Hall with arched ceiling, etc. I have no hesitancy in saying that, if the needs of the Library, which now call most urgently for attention, were thus provided for, there would be a large increase in our membership, and that with so much more room at our disposal, many of the smaller literary, scientific and technological societies would gladly come under our roof, and perhaps incorporate themselves with us. Such a movement would be very desirable and very much in keeping with the objects of the Institute.

That we set out more money for the purchase of books is imperative, for remember that our Free Public Library expends \$12,000 yearly. An expenditure by us of \$20,000 annually would class us with the first libraries of the nation.

I do not at all lose sight of the importance of our Industrial Fairs, but I believe that the time has come for once again moving our Pavilion. By the removal of the present Pavilion, or the building of a new one on the Folsom-street lot, the Fairs could

be held as heretofore. The street car service at that point is excellent already, and would no doubt be improved upon, should a great attraction be placed there, and the traffic require it.

Let us for a moment compare our present earnings with the possibilities set forth above. For the present year the total receipts of the Post-street building including everything,

were :	:	:	:	:	:	:	\$27,590.30
Total expenditures	:	:	:	:	:	:	<u>26,022.89</u>

Or an unexpended gain of :	:	:	:	:	:	:	\$ 1,567.41
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The gain on the Larkin-street property over expenses was for last year \$6,169.63, or a total gain from the two properties of

\$7,737.04

Against this gain there stands a loss on the Folsom-street lot :	:	:	:	:	:	:	<u>5,844.62</u>
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Showing a total net gain, or increase of cash on hand \$1,892.42

By valuing the Larkin-street property at \$600,000, the net proceeds of it show a trifle over one per cent. income, in this the most favorable year of the last five. There may take place a sudden rise in real estate in this city, but present conditions may continue indefinitely. Let us, for sake of argument, take five years as the time of continuance of present conditions, the difference of income from the property, calculating that we could earn with the cash on hand 5 per cent., would amount to a total of \$120,000, or with added interest on the income at 5 per cent. to exactly \$150,000; in other words, at the end of five years the value of the Larkin-street property would have to be \$750,000, in order to reimburse us for the loss of income without taking into account the expected increase of \$5,000 from additional membership.

I have been informed that there will come before the Board of Trustees an offer from a syndicate of capitalists to rent for a long term, say twenty years, (which I understand is the maximum legal time for which a lease can be made) the Larkin-street property, for the purpose of erecting thereon one large building adapted for retail trade. The annual rent, if large enough, could be applied, should this disposition be made of the property in question, to pay the interest on the present \$100,000 mort-

gage, and on an additional loan, say of \$200,000 for the new Library building, and there should still remain after the payment of above interests a considerable balance of several thousand dollars, which would have to be applied to a sinking fund for the amortization of the Institute's indebtedness. I have my doubts, however, whether any party or parties would be willing to pay a rent, beginning at once, of sufficient amount to fulfill these requirements. The matter is, however, of enough importance for me to lay it before you, and it will receive the best consideration of your Trustees.

LIBRARY BUILDING

As a temporary makeshift there is now in contemplation before the Trustees, an elevator, and perhaps the addition of one story to the present building. The moving of the patent reports to the upper floor for the purpose of giving room for books in more frequent demand is planned. It is also contemplated to open many of the present reference books to general circulation.

For changes in the Library Bulletin and status of membership, I refer you to the Librarian's report. Of noteworthy additions and changes to the Library Building there was only one, the placing of fire hose and reels in the building.

LICK FUND

March 1st, 1898, amount in fund	:	:	:	\$3,488.90
Feb. 28th, 1899, interest credited	:	:	:	<u>230.98</u>
				\$3,719.88
Feb. 28, 1899, total amount of books purchased and charged to fund during year	:	:	:	<u>252.54</u>
March 1st, 1899, balance in fund	:	:	:	\$3,467.34

MEMBERSHIP

This city is so large that if we offer to the reading public library conveniences and books, such as they are undoubtedly entitled to, there is no reason why our membership should not perhaps double. Why could not every member make it her or his duty to bring in at least one member each quarter? I think

at present a judicious system of advertising might be inaugurated by which letters would be sent to several thousand persons every month. I make this suggestion in addition to the recommendations made by the Librarian as to contemplated changes in the Monthly Bulletin.

LECTURES AND CLASSES

There were held up to date and since my last report ten lectures. During the last three lectures the hall was overcrowded in a degree dangerous to life and limb, and in spite of the crowding it was impossible for all to hear. This state of affairs affords me another opportunity to impress upon you the necessity of a much larger lecture room.

The classes in free-hand and mechanical drawing are still maintained, and it is contemplated starting a class in Spanish, if sufficient interest is shown and enough pupils are guaranteed.

DEATH OF MR. JELLISON

The last year has not been without its sorrows, as during it we lost our faithful and much-respected Librarian, Arthur M. Jellison. In him the Institute lost a courteous and competent officer. Fit resolutions of regret were adopted by your Trustees, and read at the September quarterly meeting. Since that time your Trustees have been fortunate in securing the services of Frederick J. Teggart, erstwhile Assistant Librarian of the Stanford University, and he has been appointed to the position left vacant by Mr. Jellison's much-regretted death. During the interim the duties of the Librarian were acceptably performed by the assistant Librarian, Mr. F. B. Graves.

MORTGAGE RENEWED

The mortgage held by the University Regents for \$100,000 lapsed, and was renewed for a period of five years at 6 per cent. interest.

WAR NOTES

The benefit given to the Red Cross Society by the Institute, consisting of a drill at the Pavilion June 17, 1898, netted \$715. The free use of the Library has been given to all soldiers during the war, and 400 volumes were donated to the different camps.

PAVILION

The Pavilion has been newly painted on all sides and some necessary repairs made to the western gable.

FOLSOM-STREET LOT

Mr. McNeill's lease of the Folsom-street lot at \$100 per month expired December 31st, 1898, and has not been renewed. It is in contemplation to put the premises in first-class condition as a recreation ground, and the Trustees have fair expectation of getting therefrom a sufficient revenue to more than cover all expenses such as taxes and improvements.

OUR NEXT FAIR

It was the intention of your Trustees to make the next Fair a great Colonial Exhibition, and at the same time form the nucleus for a future Museum of Commerce. Such a Museum as the city of Philadelphia has, and which has proved itself to be of inestimable value, not only to Philadelphia, but the commercial and manufacturing classes throughout the country. The outlay for such an exhibit in the selection, purchase and transportation of articles would have been far too great to have been undertaken by this Institute unaided. The Philadelphia Museum of Commerce was encouraged, and its Fair in fact rendered possible by a Congressional appropriation of \$350,000. Your Trustees had hoped for a similar generosity, and had presented a bill in both Houses of Congress during the first half of January asking for an appropriation of \$50,000. In spite of all efforts made by our representatives, the Bill failed to come up for passage, mainly, perhaps, because it was presented too late; but also, perhaps, because at just the time of its introduction, the agitation for the holding of an international exhibition in this city in 1901 was renewed, and as Congress was to be petitioned for an appropriation of \$500,000, it may have been feared that the granting of the smaller sum asked for by us might kill the prospects of the larger demand. However, our efforts in this direction may be renewed in the near future, as it is of vital importance that the people of this Coast should be made acquainted with the products of our new colonial possessions, and our merchants and manufacturers be brought face to face with the requirements and

wants of the numerous markets open to them, not only in the Hawaiian and Philippine Islands, but of the eastern coast of Asia from Vladivostock to Singapore, and of the western coast of North, Central and South America.

It will be the endeavor of your Trustees to make this year's Fair interesting and instructive, and worthy of the best of its predecessors, without calling on the fakir to swell the treasury—there is just now very good prospect that the exhibition will include a modest but interesting colonial collection. We hope that the instruction disseminated by its means will more than make up for any monetary shortage, when compared with former years when this city was not so full of cheap places of amusement as it now is. The Fair will have to depend upon its intrinsic merits, and the best music which we will be able to obtain. Certainly the people of this city should have learned to appreciate the true educational value of these Industrial Fairs, and should not either desire or expect to find in them amusements similar in nature to those found in the dime museum or vaudeville entertainments

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT.

Recognizing the utility of reiteration, I again recommend to the Institute to create the position of General Superintendent as chief officer of construction, repairs and of management of Fairs and otherwise. I refer you to my former reports on this subject.

In conclusion, I desire to thank my brother Trustees for the valuable assistance they have so courteously rendered me, and for the leniency with which they have always treated my shortcomings. I desire also to thank the officers and employees of the Institute for the faithful manner in which they have one and all performed their several parts, and for the aid they have afforded me in the execution of my duties as President.

To the members of the Institute I extend the heartfelt thanks of the Trustees for the kind appreciation of its labors, and for the assistance which they have rendered the Institute.

Respectfully submitted,

ERNST A. DENICKE,
President.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

San Francisco, March 11, 1899.

To the Members of the Mechanics' Institute—

Ladies and Gentlemen: I present herewith a financial statement for the year ending February 28th, 1899.

RECEIPTS.

Library—

Entrance fees	\$ 627 00	
Quarterly dues	20,926 00	
Life Membership	250 00	
Books and music paid for, fines and extras	1,423 00	
Rent	3,900 00	
Donations	71 40	
Sundry receipts	32 85	
Library bulletin	191 05	
		\$27,421 30

Classes—

Fees	167 25	
Paper sold	1 75	
		\$ 169 00

Bills Payable—

2,000 00

Folsom-Street Lot Rents—

1,042 40

Pavilion—

Rents	8,703 00	
Rents; Hayes street houses	4,501 40	
Gas and lighting	1,724 16	
Damages	116 80	
Labor	171 00	
Red Cross benefit	703 64	
Sundry receipts	363 40	
		16,283 40

Cash on hand March 1st, 1898

\$46,916 10

2,442 14

\$49,358 24

EXPENDITURES.

Library—

Advertising.....	8 70
Binding.....	1,339 32
Books.....	3,414 89
Books—Lick Fund.....	252 54
Contingent Fund.....	25 00
Expense.....	929 53
Fuel.....	202 21
Furniture.....	192 03
Insurance.....	24 00
Interest.....	45 48
Library Bulletin.....	383 75
Lighting.....	1,431 95
Music.....	3 13
Periodicals.....	2,685 79
Printing and Stationery.....	885 07
Repairs.....	227 05
Salaries.....	8,699 00
Taxes.....	1,945 77
Water.....	251 40
	22,946 61

Bills Payable—..... 2,000 00

Classes—

Salaries.....	596 15
Paper.....	3 38
Printing.....	3 00
	602 53

Lectures—

Paid to Lecturers.....	75 00
Rent of Lantern.....	20 00
Printing.....	20 75
Moving Chairs.....	18 00
	133 75

Folsom Street Lot—

Interest.....	5,866 66
Taxes.....	846 06
Expenses, renewing mortgage.....	174 30
	6,887 02

Pavilion—

Salaries.....	3,420 00
Taxes.....	3,831 91
Repairs.....	411 91
Lighting.....	1,439 41
Water.....	177 85
Insurance.....	608 55
Repairs, machinery.....	31 00
Labor.....	216 00
Hose reels.....	550 40
McQueen law-suit.....	678 70
Red Cross Benefit.....	703 64
Hayes street water.....	92 55
Hayes street repairs.....	35 25
Sundry.....	256 60
	12,453 77

Total Expenditures..... \$45,023 68
Cash on hand March 1st, 1899..... 4,334 56

\$49,358 24

SUMMARY.

Of Receipts and Expenditures for the Year Ending February
28th, 1899.

	Receipts	Expenditures.
<i>Library, Classes and Lectures—</i>		
Receipts.....	\$27,590 30	
Expenditures.....	23,682 89	
Excess of receipts.....	3,907 41	
<i>Pavilion—</i>		
Receipts.....	16,283 40	
Expenditures.....	12,453 77	
Excess of receipts.....	3,829 63	

Folsom Street Lot—

Expenditures..... 6,887 02 .
 Receipts..... 1,042 40

Excess of Expenditures 5,844 62
 Excess of Receipts over
 Expenditures.... 1,892 42

Cash on hand March \$ 7,737 04 \$ 7,737 04

1st, 1898 \$ 2,442 14

Excess of receipts over
 expenditures..... 1,892 42

Cash on hand March
 1st, 1899..... \$ 4,334 56

Respectfully submitted,

JOSEPH M. CUMMING,
 Secretary.

EXPERT'S REPORT.

San Francisco, March 9th, 1899.

*To the Board of Trustees,
 Mechanics' Institute,
 San Francisco, Cal.*

Gentlemen: This is to certify that I have made a careful examination of the books and records of the Mechanic's Institute for the period of three months beginning with December 1st, and ending with February 28, 1899.

The cash records and vouchers of the Librarian's office have been compared, and these again with the books and records of the Secretary's office. The proper vouchers are on file for all moneys received and disbursed, and I therefore certify that all said books, records and vouchers are entirely correct, and that the accompanying Balance Sheet properly shows the assets and liabilities of the Institute.

Yours respectfully,

J. W. GRIFFITH,
 Accountant.

LIBRARIAN'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1898-99

—o—

San Francisco, March 11th, 1899.

To the President and Board of Trustees—

Gentlemen: I have the honor to present the forty-fourth annual report of the work and business of the Library for the year ending February 28th, 1899.

MEMBERSHIP.

Number reported February 28th, 1898.....	4,385
New members, Subscription ..	627
New members, Life.....	5 632
	5 017
Withdrawn.....	718

Membership, February 28th, 1899..... 4,295

The membership is divided as follows: Honorary members, 11; Life members, 206; Subscription members, 4,078.

Two life members have died during the year: Columbus Waterhouse and Chas. E. Hopps.

BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.

The accessions of books for the year have been 3,366 volumes, classified as below:

Bibliography.....	49	General Periodicals.....	162
Philosophy..	36	Theology	38
Sociology.....	294	Philology	3
Science.....	117	Useful Arts.....	425
Fine Arts.....	99	Poetry and Drama	79
Fiction and Juveniles... 1,404		Literature, Essays, etc.....	74
Geography and Travels. 186		Biography.....	167
History.....	233		

These were assigned to:

Reference department...	852
Circulation.....	2,514

These were acquired by:

Purchase	2,412
Gift	305
Binding.....	649

In addition, 120 pamphlets and unbound volumes were purchased, and 727 presented, 4 pieces of music were purchased, and 2 presented; three maps were presented, and 1 purchased; 1 photograph and 2 charts were presented, making total accessions, 4,226.

The following table shows the numerical strength of the Library:

No. of volumes reported Feb. 28, 1898.	76,595
Accessions Feb. 28th, 1898, to Feb. 28th, 1899	3,366
Lost and paid for.....	70
Lost by dropped members.....	4
Worn out and disposed of.....	1,002
Sent to U. S. Volunteers.....	400
Missing, unaccounted for	94 1,570
Net increase.....	1,796

Total as per count Feb. 28th, 1899..... 78,391

In addition to the 649 new books, periodicals and pamphlets bound, there were 1401 old books rebound.

There are 545 titles on our subscription list, 444 American and 101 Foreign publications being represented. Of this number 223 were presented.

GIFTS.

The most important gift of the year was the "Dictionary of National Biography" presented by President E. A. Denicke.

Other gifts to the Library were 305 volumes, 727 unbound volumes and pamphlets, 2 pieces of music, 1 map, 1 photograph and 2 charts.

A list of the donors will be found in the appendix.

CIRCULATION.

The Library was open 305 days during the year, and 173,425 volumes were issued for home use, a daily average of 568. A table of classes follows:

General Periodicals...	4,742	Philosophy.....	1,272
Theology.....	520	Sociology.....	1,079
Philology.....	191	Science.....	1,057
Useful Arts.....	2,245	Fine Arts.....	2,505
Poetry and Drama...	1,704	Literature, Essays and	
Fiction and Juvenile..	146,122	Letters.....	1,918
Geography & Travel..	2,730	Miscellany.....	1,280
History.....	2,930	Biography.....	3,130

LECTURES.

The following lectures have been delivered during the year:
November 26th, 1898, "Japan," Professor Bernard Moses, University of California.

December 3d, "Historical Significance of the War with Spain," Professor Bernard Moses, University of California.

January 7th, 1899, "Confucianism," Professor John Fryer, LL. D., University of California.

January 14th, "Government and Laws of China," Professor John Fryer, LL. D., University of California.

January 21st, "Social Life of the Chinese," (illustrated) Professor John Fryer, LL. D., University of California.

January 28th, "Hasty Notes of a Trip through Russia," (illustrated) Marsden Manson, C. E.

February 4th, "How the Sierra Nevada Mountains were made," (illustrated) Dr. Harold W. Fairbanks.

February 11th, "Proportional Representation," Mr. George Cumming.

February 18th, "The Mojave Desert and Death Valley," (illustrated) Mr. Frederick I. Monsen.

February 25th, "The Monuments of a Pre-historic Race," (illustrated) Mr. Frederick I. Monsen.

The receipts and expenditures of this department were:

RECEIPTS.

New membership fees—Subscription.....	\$	627	00
Life.....		250	00
Quarterly Dues.....		20,926	00
Books lost and paid for (70).....		75	60

Fines collected (5,163).....	712	50
Extra books (6,349).....	634	90
Evening classes	167	25
Sundry receipts.....	211	20
Total receipts at Library.....	\$23,604	45

EXPENDITURES.

For books—General Fund.....	\$	3,414	89
Lick Fund.....		252	54
Periodicals.....		1,972	65
Periodicals for 1897-98 paid in 1898-99.....		713	14
Binding.....		1,339	32
Salaries.....		8,699	00
Advertising		8	70
Fuel		202	21
Light		1,431	95
Water.....		251	40
Interest.....		45	48
Insurance.....		24	00
Taxes.....		1,945	77
Expenses.....		929	53
Printing.....		885	07
Contingent fund.....		25	00
Furniture.....		192	03
Library bulletin.....		383	75
Music.....		3	13
Repairs.....		227	05

Total Expenditures.....\$22,946 61

A comparative table of statistics will be found in appendix 1.

In presenting to you this my first annual report I feel it necessary to draw to your attention some of the more important points which have impressed themselves on my attention relating to the condition of the Library which has been placed in my charge.

The Mechanics' Institute of San Francisco is undoubtedly one of the most successful proprietary libraries in the United States.

Nor is it exceeding the limits of accuracy to say that it is the most successful Institute of its kind ever founded.

There are but few Libraries in any country possessing an endowment of a million of dollars worth of property, and in addition an annual income of \$25,000.00 from membership receipts.

It becomes my duty at this time to point out the condition of the Library building, and to urge the immediate necessity of providing a new home where the objects of the Institute may more effectually be carried out. The present building, erected in 1866, has for some time shown serious evidence of its age, and as President Denicke said in his annual report in 1897: "It is antiquated and inconvenient."

As originally planned the Library occupied the second of the three stories, the first and third being rented for various purposes. But in time, owing to the increase of members and books, it was found necessary to utilize the whole upper story and two-thirds of the ground floor for Library purposes as well as to excavate a basement. The result of this expansion is that the greater portion of the Library is situated in rooms which were not planned for such a purpose, and which are anything but fitted for the use to which they are being put. Under such circumstances the administration can not be other than imperfect and uneconomical. Only an inconsiderable number of members made use of any part of the Library except the first floor, which is narrow, dark and uninviting. The periodical room situated as it is on the top floor is inaccessible to many members, especially ladies, on account of the long stairs to be climbed. There is no adequate provision for the holding of classes, and though our Saturday evening lectures are popular and even too well attended, the use of the main library rooms for this purpose works a great hardship on the members who desire to use the rooms for reading and selecting books.

It is greatly to be desired that we have a building designed expressly for the uses of the Institute with ample space for the library, with suitable class rooms and a commodious lecture hall.

Somewhat dependent upon the unsuitable disposition of our present library quarters is the question of the distribution of our books upon the shelves, and here I find much that may be advantageously changed. It is a cardinal necessity in a library like ours, where the members have entirely free access to the books, that everything which the library possesses on a given subject, should be grouped in one definite place. Only by this means can all the information which the collection affords be supplied with a minimum amount of trouble to the reader. No matter what principle is followed by the administration in placing some books on a subject in one place, and more of them somewhere else, the net result to the reader is loss of time and vexation of spirit.

With us the undesirable distribution of books has resulted from the arrangement of our rooms on different floors and from the institution known to you as the "Reference Room."

To give an example, I found on examination the subject "fine arts" in a gallery in the delivery room on the ground floor, a number of valuable works on the same subject upon which restrictions of circulation had been placed were found in a locker in the main room on the second floor, particularly valuable works debarred from circulation were found in the Reference Room, and certain other volumes such as Hogarth and Gillray and some folios on architecture kept company with Staunton's reprint of Shakespeare's first folio and the 1783-1816 Domesday Book in a room entirely inaccessible to the public; while all monographs on the works of single artists are placed in "Biography." This is but an example of what has generally resulted from the changes of quarters following the expansion of the library from 30,000 volumes in 1881 to 80,000 in 1898.

The Reference Room to which I have alluded was planned in the first place as a means of affording ready information to investigators—especially in mechanical subjects. In addition to dictionaries, encyclopedias and periodical sets which usually form the body of such a reference collection, the more important works added to the library were put into this room and not allowed to circulate. Moreover, contrary to the custom of libraries in such cases, no additional copies of these books were pur-

chased for home use. As a result none of the more important works on mechanical arts have been circulated from the library, thus, I am of opinion, placing a serious handicap upon the very class of people for whom the library was designed, and forcing our mechanics to go to the Free Public Library for their reading matter. If the original intention of this Mechanics' Institute is to be carried out it is imperative that the wants of the mechanics should receive more consideration than in the past.

I am glad to be able to report that the Board has already authorized steps for the improvement of the existing state of affairs.

It is proposed that inasmuch as a large proportion of the best shelf room on the second floor is taken up with British Patent Office Reports, that these shall be removed to the third floor. This will permit of a redistribution of the books which remain, and, of the two wings on the second floor, one will probably be devoted to Literature and Fine Arts, and the other to Science and Technology. It is not anticipated that the removal of the Patent Office Reports will prove a hardship inasmuch as they are rarely referred to more frequently than about once in two weeks. I might also say that though these reports are presented to us by the British Government, the transportation and binding has cost up to the present about \$20,000.00.

Another matter of importance which should receive attention is the condition of our sets of periodicals. These, bound and unbound, are scattered over the building from the Board Room to the basement, causing serious inconvenience in their use. But of more consequence than this scattered arrangement, which may be easily readjusted, is the detriment to the users of this most important class of literature caused by the incompleteness of our bound sets. This is a defect which should be remedied without delay as it greatly interferes with the systematic use of the library by careful readers and the lack of odd volumes brings discredit upon the whole library.

I should err were I not also to call your attention to the crying need of a thorough catalogue of the books in the library.

In his annual report as President in 1894, Mr. A. S. Hallidie drew attention to the absolute necessity for "Larger accessions

of books," and I beg to emphasize this need, if our library is to retain its old prestige. Unfortunately since Mr. Hallidie's recommendation, instead of the amount expended upon books having been increased, it has decreased by one-third what it was at that time. Instead of \$5,197.00 spent in 1893, the library has spent but \$3,414.00 in 1898.

Here I would like to lay special emphasis upon the fact that this library has to compete with one of the best managed free public libraries in the United States, and it needs no prophet to foretell what the outcome will be, if we continue to spend for books each year but one-fourth of the amount expended by that institution.

With the small sum of \$3,500.00 devoted annually to books, as at present, it is only possible to keep up with the most popular and least expensive literature, and in this process the classes which have suffered most are the sciences and technology.

Even on the basis of our present financial condition it is to be hoped that the Board will see its way to set aside at least \$6,000 for books during the year 1899, of which \$2,000 should be expended on the purchase of works of importance, which would permanently strengthen the library, and \$1,000 should be spent on filling up gaps in our periodical sets.

In the matter of our Monthly Bulletin it might be advisable to consider whether in place of continuing to print lists of accessions and reference lists on current topics, it would not be more profitable to devote each number to the printing of a catalogue of some portion of the library. These classified lists of books could then be sent to outsiders as well as members, and thus serve as a valuable means of advertising the resources of the Institute.

Two other matters have presented themselves during my short term of office and these are whether some satisfactory arrangement could not be made for temporary memberships and for country members.

There are many persons visiting the city and living at hotels who would doubtless be glad to pay their 50 cents a month for the privilege of drawing books, and who would have no objec-

tion to placing a deposit of \$5.00 to be returned when they withdrew.

At present we have quite a large country membership, and to increase this it might be well to consider whether some special privileges might not be granted such members inasmuch as they are at very considerable expense for express or postal charges.

I have here pointed out some of the more important needs of the library, and recommend them for your consideration.

In conclusion I desire to thank the members for the cordial reception I have met with upon assuming the office of your librarian, and I shall endeavor by giving my best efforts to your service to show my appreciation of the confidence which you have placed in me. I desire also to record my appreciation of the energetic co-operation of the library staff.

Respectfully submitted,

FREDERICK J. TEGGART,
Librarian

APPENDIX I—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS—1891-1899.

YEAR ENDING MARCH 1ST.....	RECEIPTS			EXPENDITURES				Fairs.....	Folsom Street.....	Pavilion.....	Excess of Receipts...	Accessions, volumes	Number of volumes.	Circulation.....	Membership.....
	Library....	Rents.....	Total.....	Books.....	Periodicals & Binding.	Salaries....	Total.....								
1899....	\$23,604 45	\$9,900 00	\$27,504 45	\$3,667 43	\$4,025 11	\$ 8,699 00	\$22,946 61	\$ 4,557 81	\$ 5,844 62	\$3,829 68	\$ 4,557 81	3,366	78,391	173,425	4,295
1898....	25,532 20	3,900 00	29,432 20	3,641 22	2,000 20	8,932 05	21,454 34	7,377 86	6,094 43	343 87	7,377 86	3,638	76,595	186,189	4,885
1897....	24,855 70	3,900 00	28,755 70	3,565 50	2,677 01	8,554 35	23,114 41	5,641 29	8,049 54	560 92	5,641 29	3,431	78,645	176,971	4,493
1896....	25,495 70	3,900 00	29,395 70	3,446 06	2,341 41	8,000 70	23,645 40	5,750 30	6,893 73	1,911 65	5,750 30	3,475	70,818	185,875	4,709
1895....	24,564 01	4,425 00	28,989 01	3,714 11	3,547 35	9,154 85	25,129 03	3,859 98	6,829 99	4,372 43	3,859 98	3,733	65,363	153,330	4,465
1894....	25,896 40	7,950 00	33,886 40	5,197 65	4,009 90	10,734 65	27,001 29	6,885 11	7,333 50	5,613 96	6,885 11	5,086	65,462	160,992	4,371
1893....	28,275 55	8,100 00	36,375 55	5,097 42	2,946 48	10,059 50	25,334 47	11,941 08	7,423 17	2,344 78	11,941 08	5,321	62,444	152,709	5,541
1892....	24,999 62	7,850 00	32,849 62	4,506 41	3,981 92	9,712 50	26,541 95	6,307 67	7,457 44	1,597 17	6,307 67	4,017	57,934	139,090	4,130
1891....	24,263 85	7,525 00	31,788 85	4,720 13	4,265 27	8,833 00	24,283 34	6,503 51	10,726 59	126 00	6,503 51	4,147	54,983	135,972	4,076

* \$14,911.25 was expended for repairs to library building
† Not included in total of \$25,129.03.

† Excess.
- Deficiency.

APPENDIX II.—GIFTS.

List of Donors, 1898-99.	Books	Pamphlets	Maps
Alpine County (Great Register)		I	
American Historical Association		I	
Anonymous 4 Music	4	I	I
Associated Charities of Boston		I	
Athenaeum, London.....		I	
Board of Supervisors, S. F.	I		
Boston Public Library		I	
Bostwick, R.	I		
British Columbia Legislative Assembly		2	
Brooklyn Library.....		I	
Buffalo Public Library.....		2	
Calaveras County (Great Register).....		I	
California Academy of Sciences.....	I	3	
California College of Pharmacy.....		I	
California Miners' Association.....		I	
California Society Sons of American Revolution....		I	
California State Board of Trade.....		3	
California State Dental Association		I	
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.....		I	
Chamber of Commerce, S. F.....		2	
Chetwood, J.	3	I	
Chicago College of Law.....		I	
Chicago Mining Machine Co.....		2	
Chicago Public Library.....		I	
Cincinnati Public Library.....		I	
College of Dentistry, S. F.....		I	
Cole, E. N.			2
Coney, A. K.		I	
Cubery, W. M.		I	
Cumming, Jos. M.	I	I	
Cumming, Kate.....	I		
Davis, A. B.			39 Drawings
Davis, Horace.....		2	
Del Mar, Alex.....		I	
Denicke, E. A.	57		
Detroit Public Library.....		I	
English Patent Office	222		

List of Donors, 1898-99	Books	Pamphlets	Maps
Enoch Pratt Free Library		5	
Esoteric Publishing Co., Applegate, Calif.....		I	
Fairmount Park Association.....		I	
Faust, H. W.	II	I	
Fenton Metallic Manufacturing Co.....		I	
Field Columbian Museum		6	
Foote, A. Ripley.....		4	
Forbes Library, Northampton, Mass.....		I	
Fraser, Malcolm A. C.....		I	
Free Public Library, Paterson, N. J.....		I	
General Society Mechanics and Tradesmen, N. Y..		I	
Graves, F. B.	I		
Greene, C. S.		I	
Hammond, A. C.	2		
Harrison, Carter H.	I		
Harvard University	2	2	
Hazleton and Stockton Free Public Libraries.....	I		
Health Department, S. F.	I		
Healy, P. J.		I	
Helena Public Library.....		2	
Henderson, Wm. D. B.....		I	
Hitchcock, Miss H. M.		I	
Hoboken (N. J.) Free Public Library.....		I	
Hoffmeyer, V. A. H.	I		
Holabird, W. H.		I	
Indian Rights Association		3	
Interstate Commerce Commission	2	2	
Inyo County (Great Register).		I	
Jackson, O. W.		9	
Jewish Foster Home, Etc., Philadelphia		I	
John Crerar Library, Chicago.....		I	
Johns Hopkins University.....		I	
Kern County (Great Register).....		I	
Kimball, Roy T.	I		
Kincaid, H. R.		I	
Lake Mohawk Conference on International Arbitration		I	
Leland Stanford Junior University.....		10	
Library Bureau, Chicago.....	I		
Library Company of Philadelphia.....		2	
Library of Legislative Assembly, Victoria, B. C....		I	
Lick Observatory.....		I	
Life Saving Service	I		

List of Donors, 1898-99.	Books	Pamphlets	Maps
Limantour, Jose Ines.....		6	
Los Angeles Public Library.....	I		
Lunstedt, H.....	I		
Lynn (Mass.) Public Library.....		I	
Maguire, J. G.....	I		
Manson, Marsden.....	I		
Manufacturers' and Producers' Association, S. F..	I		
Marburg, Theo.....	I		
Marin County (Great Register).....		I	
Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association, S. F....		I	
Maryland Institute, Baltimore.....		3	
Massachusetts Charitable Mechanical Association		I	
Master Car Builders's Association.....	I		
Medical Society of California.....	I		
Merchants' Association, S. F.....	2	6	
Miller, Walter.....		I	
Minneapolis Public Library.....		4	
Monterey County (Great Register).....		I	
Municipal League of Philadelphia.....		I	
Newark Free Public Library.....		2	
New York Free Circulating Library.....		I	
Newberry Library, Chicago.....		2	
Palmer, Mrs.....	I		
Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, N. Y.....		I	
Princeton University.....		I	
Providence Public Library.....		I	
Ramsdell, Mrs. I. L.....	II		
Rauck, S. H.....		I	
Randall, P. M.....	I		
Regio Museo Industriale Italiano.....		2	
St. Ignatius College, S. F.....		I	
St. Louis Public Library.....		I	
San Francisco Free Public Library.....	I		
San Mateo County (Great Register).....		I	
Saulman, J.....		I	
Sierra County (Great Register).....		I	
Smithsonian Institute.....	2	15	
Snelling, J. F.....		I	
Society California Pioneers, S. F.....		2	
Solano County (Great Register).....		I	
Sound Currency Reform Club.....	I	3	
S. P. Co. Passenger Department.....		2	
State Charities Aid Association.....		2	

List of Donors, 1898-99.	Books	Pamphlets	Maps
Stearns, Dr. V. J.....		4	
Stevens, B. F.....		I	
Sturtevant, B. F. Co.....	I		
Temple Publishing Co., Denver.....		10	
Tokyo Imperial University.....		I	
Trans-Miss. International Exposition, Omaha.....		I	
Treadwell, E. F.....	I		
Turner, H. W.....		I	
Underwriters' Fire Patrol, S. F.....		20	
UNITED STATES—			
Agricultural Department.....		19	
Commissioner of Education.....	2		
Commissioner of Labor.....	2	3	
Commissioner of Patents.....		I	
Interior Department.....		3I	
State Department.....	I		
Superintendent of Documents.....	170	229	
Civil Service Commission.....	4		
Geological Survey.....		I	
Life Saving Service.....	I		
Light House Inspector.....		4	
War Department.....	4		
University of California.....		8	
University of Chicago.....		I	
University of Pennsylvania.....		2	
Vassar College.....		I	
Woolcock, Wm.....	I		
Youths' Companion, Boston, Mass.....		I	

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the members of the Mechanics' Institute was held at the Mechanics' Institute Library Building, Saturday evening, March 11th, 1898.

The meeting was called to order by President Denicke, the annual reports from the various officers were read, the report of the judges of the annual election held February 28th, 1899, was read and after the transaction of some other business, the Trustees elected at the annual election February 28th, 1899, viz: Walter N. Brunt, Ernst A. Denicke, Rodney Kendrick, John McLaren, Robert W. Neal, Chas. M. Plum and Horace Wilson, took the oath of office and subscribed thereto in the manner prescribed by the Constitution and were duly installed as Trustees of the Mechanics' Institute.

ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

Immediately on adjournment of the annual meeting, the Board of Trustees met and elected the following officers:

President, Ernst A. Denicke; Vice-President, Rodney Kendrick; Recording Secretary, E. P. Heald; Corresponding Secretary, H. L. Tickner.

IN MEMORIAM ARTHUR M. JELLISON

San Francisco, August 16th, 1898.

WHEREAS, The Mechanics' Institute has recently been deprived of its valued librarian, Mr. Arthur M. Jellison, who has passed away in the prime of his life and in the midst of his usefulness in his life work,

WHEREAS, he has been, in his long connection with our library, a man of the strictest integrity, faithful in the performance of every duty, genial and kindly in nature, firm, gentlemanly and accommodating in manner to our members, and cordial and attentive to the Board of Trustees, and

WHEREAS, his well directed judgment and tact, his long acquired training as a Librarian, and his persevering endeavor have always tended to promote the efficiency and prosperity of our Library and Institute, be it therefore

Resolved, That the members of this Board of Trustees mournful in their own great loss, do hereby tender to the widow of Mr. Jellison, their earnest and heartfelt sympathy in her affliction and bereavement.

Resolved, That this Preamble and Resolution be placed upon the minutes of the proceedings of the Board of Trustees, and that an engrossed copy be sent to the widow of our late Librarian.

P. J. HEALY,
GEORGE R. PRESSON,
CHAS. M. PLUM,

Committee of Board of Trustees.